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A Short History of Women's Rights. By EUGENE A. HECKER. New York: Putnam, 1910. 8vo. pp. 292. \$1.50.

The author has given a brief account of the position of woman in society from the time of Augustus until the present. In many respects the Roman woman at the time of the empire held a position comparable to that of the woman of today. She had absolute control of her own property, could plead in public, engage in business, be educated, and had equal rights of divorce; but in matters of inheritance preference was always given to descendants in the male line. When Christianity became the state religion a new force, gradually becoming more powerful, began to restrict the Roman idea of woman's rights. To this were added the customs of the Germanic tribes that invaded the empire. Thus the position of woman in the Middle Ages was fixed by the fusion of these influences, though subject to the supremacy of canon law until the Reformation. Thereafter other influences began to operate. This is shown by the difference between the present-day attitude of the Catholic church and that of the laws of England and America. The development in America is given with more detail of legal and educational rights and the position of woman in industrial and professional life. The chapter contains a series of tables that clearly show the status of woman in each state. The work closes with a general consideration of the value of equal suffrage and suggestions for some definite reforms which must be brought about before women can attain their maximum efficiency.

The style is clear and concise; and the reader obtains a good general idea of the position of women, legally and socially, as it has varied since the time of the Roman Empire. The fact that the author takes all his material from primary sources adds to the value of the references. Probably many would not agree with his conclusions regarding equal suffrage, but, certainly, his suggested reforms are in directions which will be quite generally approved.

The Knights of St. Crispin, 1867-1874. By DON D. LESCOHIER. Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, No. 355, Madison, 1910. 8vo, pp. 101. \$0.40.

This is a careful historical study of the rise and fall of the shoemakers' union during the period immediately following the Civil War. It is an investigation of the industrial changes, due to the introduction of machinery and the disturbances caused by the war, which brought about the formation, rise, and destruction of the organization. As a pioneer, this union naturally lacked knowledge of some of the forms of organization which have been the strength of later trade unions. Its especial need was a strong central organization for the control of local lodges. The emphasis of principle also differed from that of the modern unions; the first concern of the Crispianians being control of the supply of labor, rather than control of wages or hours of labor; and their final object being co-operation in buying, selling, and manufacturing.

The author states his own conclusions: "The Knights of St. Crispin was the first great protest of America's workingmen against the abuse of machinery. Fantastical in some of its superficial features, crude in its methods, and loose in its organization, it yet embodied an essential demand for justice. The shoemakers insisted that the benefits of machinery should be to those who toil with it as well as to those who own it or buy its products. That their effort failed, like that of most American trades, is the condemnation not of the shoe-workers but of our legal and industrial system."

Half a Man. By MARY WHITE OVINGTON. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911. 8vo, pp. xi+236.

This volume represents the results of an investigation into the industrial and social position of the Negro race in New York City, carried out under the auspices of the Greenwich House Committee on Social Investigations. The author brings out vividly the difficulties under which the Negro is living in New York. It has been asserted many times that the backward condition of the Negro is not due to any lack of opportunity of advancement, but rather to racial inferiority. This the writer repudiates as untrue. His lack of advancement must be attributed to inequality in opportunities. It is only in the fields of labor where brute strength is required that the Negro has not been placed at a disadvantage. Race prejudice has barred his progress in nearly all clerical, business, and professional careers except among his own people.

The Taxation of Forest Lands in Wisconsin. By ALFRED K. CHITTENDEN and HARRY IRION. Madison: The State Printer, 1911. 8vo, pp. 80.

The problem of the taxation of forest lands in northern Wisconsin is discussed by the authors, not from the point of view of the fiscal needs, or of administration, but from that of conservation. They find that the present method of taxation, because of its arbitrariness and uncertainty, its inequality as between timber lands of equal value, and chiefly because of the disproportionate burden it places upon cut-over lands, tends not to foster but to hinder conservation by the private owners. While they express doubt that private capital can ever ultimately solve the problem of conservation, yet they believe that with a properly devised system of taxation beneficial results may be achieved in the way of preventing abandonment, and as a consequence destruction by fire. To this end they approve the "deferred-tax system," which imposes a small annual tax upon the land, a concession to fiscal requirements, and defers the tax on the timber until it is cut, at which time they propose to exact 10 per cent of its gross stumpage value. The book is to be commended. Its proposals, coming from men whose practical experience brings them face to face with the need of revision, will undoubtedly carry weight.